

Message Text

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UNCLAS ROME 5164

FROM USDEL H. COX

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, OTRA, FAO

SUBJECT: AD HOC GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON PESTICIDES IN
AGRICULTURE AND PUBLIC HEALTH, APRIL 7-11, ROME

REF.: ROME 5099

/SUMMARY/ - LACK OF BACKGROUND AND WORKING PAPERS PRIOR TO
CONSULTATION PRECLUDED DEVELOPMENT OF US POSITION ON MOST
TOPICS SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION. US DELEGATION FOUND INACCURACIES
AND MISCONCEPTIONS IN SOME OF THE APPROXIMATELY 70 PAPERS DI-
STRIBUTED DURING CONSULTATION. ONE FAO PAPER IS HIGHLY
CRITICAL OF US LAW REGARDING PESTICIDE REGISTRATION. THERE-
FORE, U.S. DELEGATION WILL READ FOLLOWING STATEMENT AT BEGINNING
OF PLENARY SESSION THURSDAY MORNING. END SUMMARY

1. MADAME CHAIRWOMAN, THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA WISHES TO COMPLIMENT THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE
LARGE AMOUNT OF DOCUMENTATION WHICH THEY HAVE PROVIDED IN
SUPPORT OF THIS MEETING, INCLUDING THEIR ON-GOING EFFORTS
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TO KEEP THE RECORD UP TO DATE AS THE MEETING PROCEEDS.

2. THE DELEGATION DEEPLY REGRETS NOT BEING ABLE TO PRESENT A POSITION STATEMENT DURING PLENARY ON MONDAY BECAUSE WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE PROBLEMS SURROUNDING THE USE OF PESTICIDES ARE EVEN MORE CRITICAL TODAY THAN THEY WERE WHEN THE FAO PESTICIDES PROGRAM WAS INITIATED SOME TWELVE YEARS AGO.

3. WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT THE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION AND THE ASSOCIATED WORKING PAPERS WERE NOT AVAILABLE TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS FAR ENOUGH IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING, SO THAT EACH COUNTRY COULD GIVE ADEQUATE CONSIDERATION TO THESE IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS AND ESTABLISH A POSITION ON EACH ITEM.

4. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT DESPITE THE EXTREMELY HARD WORK OF THE SECRETARIAT, STAFF RESOURCES DURING THE PREPARATORY STAGES FOR THIS CONSULTATION WERE NOT SUFFICIENT TO ALLOW FOR APPROPRIATE PREPARATION AND CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENTATION WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.

5. BEARING THE ABOVE SITUATION IN MIND, THIS DELEGATION WISHES TO REGISTER ITS CONCERN OVER SOME OF THE STATEMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS CONTAINED IN CERTAIN BACKGROUND PAPERS, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO BACKGROUND PAPER AGP:PEST/PH/75/B50. AS SUGGESTED, MADAME CHAIRWOMAN, THE BACKGROUND PAPERS WERE NOT SUBJECT TO DISCUSSION DURING THE SERIES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS JUST CONCLUDED. HAS THIS DOCUMENTATION BEEN FURNISHED TO THE DELEGATION SUFFICIENTLY IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY SOME OF THE MISCONCEPTIONS AND ERRONEOUS CONCLUSIONS CONTAINED THEREIN AND SUGGEST APPROPRIATE REVISIONS. OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO THE DELEGATION, ARE THE UNWARRANTED CRITICISMS, BOTH EXPRESSED AND IMPLIED, OF THE CURRENT PESTICIDE REGULATORY PROCESSES IN THE UNITED STATES. WE DO NOT FEEL THAT AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION SUCH AS FAO, OR ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES SHOULD CRITICIZE POLICY AND LAW WHICH ARE SOLELY A MATTER OF NATIONAL CONCERN.

6. THEREFORE, THE DELEGATION OF THE USA RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS THAT OUR CONCERNS REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY AND INACCURACIES OF CERTAIN BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS BE REFLECTED IN THE REPORT OF THIS AD HOC CONSULTATION.

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7. IN CONCLUSION, MADAME CHAIRWOMAN, WE DEEPLY APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE, AND WE WISH TO ASSURE YOU, AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC CONSULTATION, THAT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SUPPORTS THE PURPOSES OF THIS CONSULTATION AND WILL DO ALL THAT WE CAN TO FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS. BEAUDRY

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